



CELEBRITY SAVIOR: PART 1!

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THE

Celebrity Savior Part 1

PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN



As Jim seeks a new direction for his troubled life, he is unaware of the true danger he represents to those closest to him. Marc has become embroiled in a deadly game of intrigue with a CIA unit tasked with keeping Jim's past a secret, which leads to increased paranoia and further neglect of Susan. Susan, ultimately, turns to a final, fatal act of desperation to solve her issues of loneliness. Sara's faith is being tested like never before – is Jim truly a savior or is he something much, much worse?

Meanwhile, Clown has had his new toys – Jim and the increasingly powerful K7-Leetha – taken from him and makes a desperate maneuver of his own, as he places the last remaining piece of Malebolgia's earthly power within Sara for safe keeping. And detective Sam Burke, after a very near-death experience is slowly working his way back into crime fighting shape with the help of his partner, Twitch. First on the docket? Jim Downing, and the seemingly endless mystery surrounding his awakening and subsequent rise to world fame.



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the *Spawn* mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn... and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



Marc Rosen – A would-be reporter-turned-media manager and confidant of Jim Downing, Marc views Jim as his ticket to a better life – though the price for that success may be far greater than Marc knows.



Bludd – An old and powerful vampire leader, the true depths of Bludd's history are as yet unknown. In his human guise as the international mogul, Mr. Ramus, Bludd has amassed great wealth and influence. His desire to control Jim Downing, and the powers of the K7-Leetha, is no secret, and has led to an uneasy partnership between Bludd and Jim – a partnership that is mutually beneficial, and, quite possibly, mutually destructive.



K7-Leetha – The hell-born symbiote that was once bound to Al Simmons, is now attached to Jim Downing. As the symbiote begins to slowly exert more influence only time will tell just how dangerous this loyal soldier of Hell truly is.

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Hllspwn: Dudes!! Figured it out over the weekend.

AngelsROK: Let me guess...you found another HELLSPAWN

Hllspwn:
U got it!


Redeemer69:
Please...enlighten us

Hllspwn: It came to me in my dreams last night... our new global celeb DOWNING is a Hellspawn!! He's hiding it from everyl

AngelsROK: WTF!!! How many does that make for you now? 77 or 78 Spawns? I've lost count ever since you decided that LeBRON is the new Hellspawn not KOBE.

Hllspwn: It is LEBRON!!! Kobe was a fraud. Look at how Lakers are playing! Not even the best team in LA.

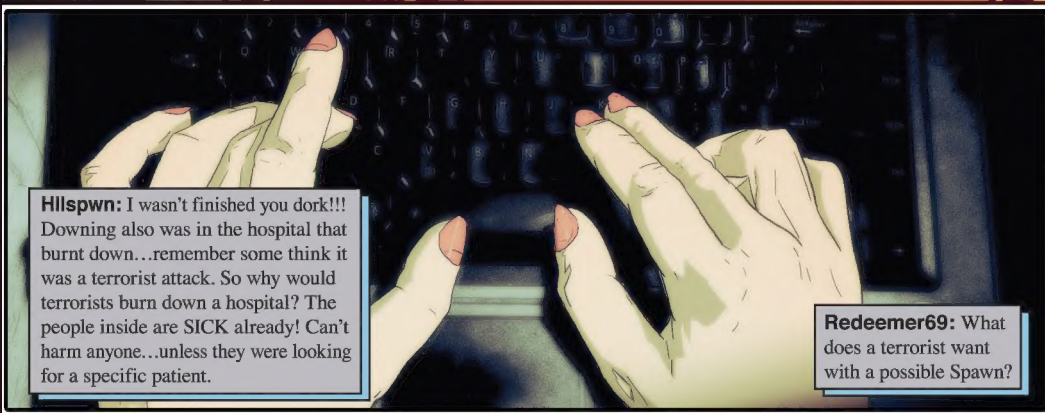
Redeemer69: Nuke the sports talk and tell us your facts for Downing. Other than what everyone already knows.



Hillspwn: Think about it...DOWNING has no past!! I checked news sites and found that he came out of his coma the SAME day as that weird green light over NYC.* **Feds** never told us what it was. WHY????!! Becuz they R hiding something. And green is the same color as SPAWN's eyes!!


*Issue 185 --Todd

Angels ROK:
OMG! Matching eye colors!!! That's it????????????? You're a moron!



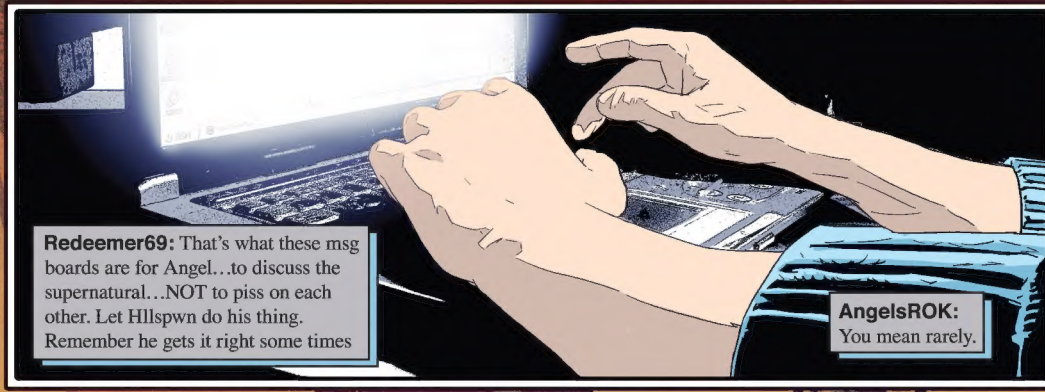
Hillspwn: I wasn't finished you dork!!! Downing also was in the hospital that burnt down...remember some think it was a terrorist attack. So why would terrorists burn down a hospital? The people inside are SICK already! Can't harm anyone...unless they were looking for a specific patient.

Redeemer69: What does a terrorist want with a possible Spawn?



Hillspwn: I DON'T THINK IT WAS TERROISTS...I think it was God hunting down the new Hellspawn. His angels always know when NEW evil pops up. If Downing comes out of his coma with Hell powers then Heaven would need 2 kill him.

AngelsROK: So God kills everyone in a hospital to find ONE demon????? This is why I hate the internet. Becuz of crazies like you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I bet you sleep in your own shit on the floor



Redeemer69: That's what these msg boards are for Angel...to discuss the supernatural...NOT to piss on each other. Let Hillspwn do his thing. Remember he gets it right some times

AngelsROK:
You mean rarely.

Hllspwn: The question is ... did God kill the new Hellspawn? NO. We saw a picture of him in the newspapers. So how could a Hellspawn hide himself from God all this time??? Unless he was in disguise. And what would be the best disguise for a demon to take?

AngelsROK: I know. A basketball player like Lebron or Kobe

Hllspwn: No!!! And I know you're making fun of me for getting it wrong with KOBE...but JORDAN was a Hllspwn FOR SURE!!!! How else do U explain those moves he had???????

Redeemer69: Can we pleeze stay on topic

Hllspwn: Here is the answer: The best disguise for a Demon to take is that of an Angel!! Duh! The reason God can't find the Hellspawn is because he is acting like an Angel. That's why Downing is doing all those nice things like helping sick people and building his foundation and acting so nice on TV. If he acts GOOD they won't know he is right in front of them.

AngelsROK: Angels R smarter than that. They sense evil. It doesn't matter how someone looks. It's what's inside that counts

Redeemer69: But what if the Spawn has some good mixed inside him?

Hllspwn: Exactly. That would throw off the scent...like in the Walking Dead show when Rick and Glenn rubbed zombie blood on themselves so they could walk next to the other zombies and not get eaten.

So maybe Jim Downing is a hybrid. Good and evil mixed together. That's why he does the good things. But other spawns have hidden themselves in the alleys and now Downing's charity has bought some of the alleyways. I think he didn't buy that property to fix it up. I think he bought it so he could hide where he lives.

Redeemer69: I thought he lived in a penthouse now...?

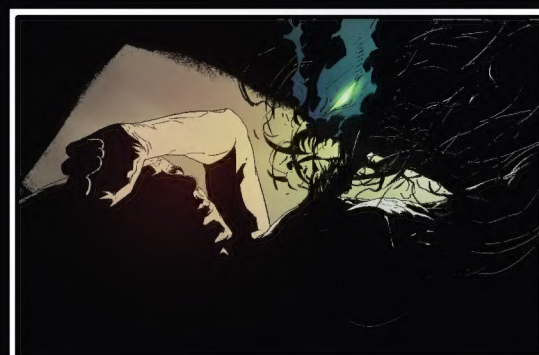
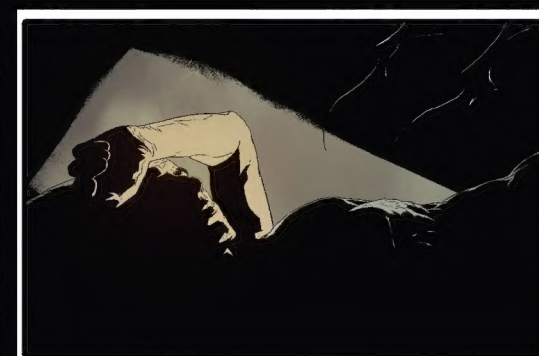
Hllspwn: That's what the reporters R telling us. I think he is faking all of us and he actually sleeps in the alleys where there's nothing but shadows. Hellspawns feed off darkness!!!!





Hllspwn: I bet he's there right now sucking up all that black power. He probably thinks he's fooling all of us!

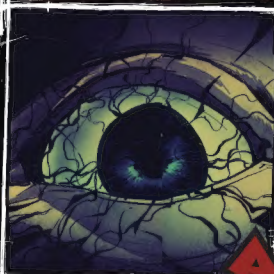
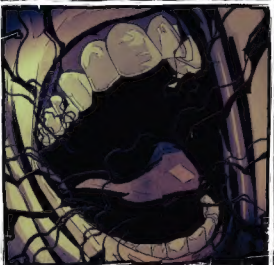
Hllspwn: And Bcuz the public is so stupid I'm sure he goes to bed with a smile on his face and sleeps like a baby.



"I HUNGER,
DOWNING."

"IT'S TIME...TO
FEED AGAIN."

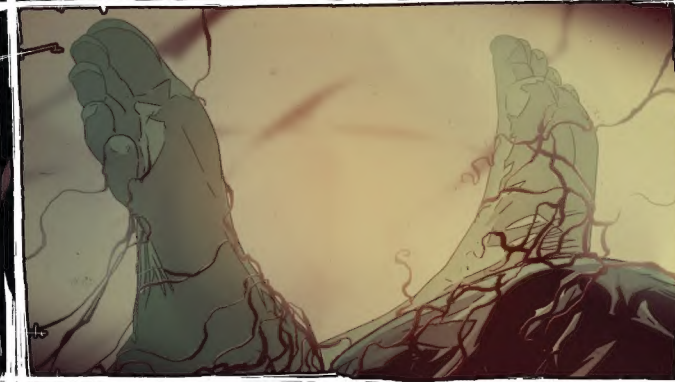
BECAUSE I'M
THE ONE THAT GIVES YOU
POWER!!



BY DEVOURING
AS MUCH EVIL AS I
CAN. YOU'RE NOT THE
ONE THEY'RE AFRAID OF--
IT'S ME!!

IT'S MY
EXISTENCE THAT
SCARES CLOWN. HE
KNOWS THAT SOME DAY
SOON I'LL UNLEASH MY
FULL POWER AND THERE'S
NOTHING HEAVEN OR
HELL CAN DO TO
STOP IT!

AND WHEN
NIGHT FALLS--
WHILE YOU SLEEP--
I FEED!
THAT'S THE ONLY
PURPOSE YOU SERVE
FOR ME... IS TO BE
MY HOST!



AND THE
PAIN I INFLECT
BECOMES NOTHING
BUT A VAGUE
MEMORY TO
YOU WITH EACH
SUNRISE.



AAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH





THAT SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT DO YOU THINK, JIM?

HELLO...!? EARTH TO JIM!

UM... SURE. WHATEVER ORDER YOU WANT TO DO THE PRESENTATION IN IS FINE.



WE CAN LEAVE THE TOPIC OF FUNDING FOR A BIT LATER.

OF COURSE.



AS YOU KNOW, MR. ROSEN, I HAD MANY PERSONAL REASONS FOR WANTING TO PARTNER THE RAMUS CORPORATIONS WITH YOUR FOUNDATION.

IN FACT, MR. DOWNING AND I HAVE HAD A FEW PRIVATE MEETINGS ABOUT THOSE MOTIVES.*

TODAY, THOUGH, WE'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT UPGRADING YOUR STAFFING NEEDS-- WHICH WE BELIEVE WE'VE ALL SEVERELY UNDERESTIMATED, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

NO ONE ON OUR SIDE IMAGINED IT WOULD GET THIS BIG SO FAST.





AS YOU GENTLEMEN ARE AWARE-- OUR GROUP HAS BEEN RECEIVING ALL INCOMING EMAIL REQUESTS FROM YOUR FOUNDATION'S WEBSITE. THE TRAFFIC TO THE SITE HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING, TO SAY THE LEAST. WE'VE HAD FOUR SERVER CRASHES THIS MONTH ALREADY DUE TO HUGE DEMAND.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, PAGE VIEWS WENT THROUGH THE ROOF IMMEDIATELY AFTER MR. DOWNING'S APPEARANCE ON T.V. WHEN HE WAS SHOT.*

* Issue 215 -- Todd

THAT INCIDENT HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS BOON-- MAKING YOUR NAME THE SINGLE LARGEST SEARCH ON GOOGLE RECENTLY.

THAT'S GREAT.

WE AGREE. AS OF TODAY WE'VE RECEIVED OVER TWELVE THOUSAND EMAILS ASKING FOR YOUR HELP OR SOME TYPE OF ASSISTANCE.

SICK

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED IS HEART WRENCHING. WHICH IS WHY WE THINK YOU'LL WANT **TRIPLE** THE STAFF YOU INITIALLY REQUESTED.

CANCER

SON

PAIN

MOTHER

HELP



UNFORTUNATELY, THINGS HAVEN'T ALL BEEN POSITIVE.

HOW SO?



WE'VE ALSO RECEIVED A HIGH VOLUME OF DEATH THREATS AIMED AT MR. DOWNING OR THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM.



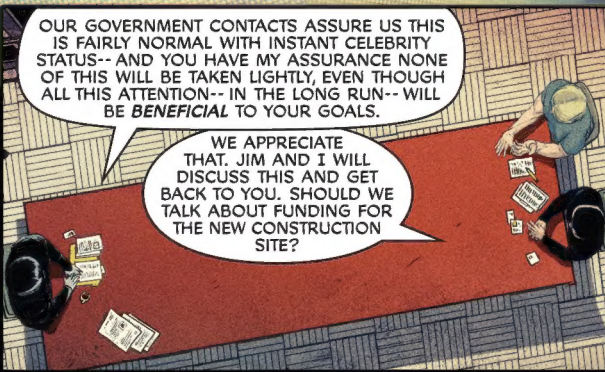
BECAUSE OF HIS 'SPECIAL' POWERS AND RELIGIOUS IMPLICATIONS HE'S BECOME A POLARIZING FIGURE IN SOME CIRCLES. WE BELIEVE THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE THREATS ARE HARMLESS AND ARE COMING FROM PEOPLE SITTING IN CHAT ROOMS OR WRITING BLOGS TRYING TO MAKE A REPUTATION FOR THEMSELVES.

BUT SINCE WE WANT TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN-- WE'VE HANDED THE EMAILS OVER TO THE F.B.I. THEY'VE SUGGESTED WE BEEF UP ALL SECURITY FOR THE NEXT LITTLE WHILE.



THAT'S WHY I WANTED THIS MEETING...

SO JIM COULD HEAR THIS ALL FIRST-HAND.



OUR GOVERNMENT CONTACTS ASSURE US THIS IS FAIRLY NORMAL WITH INSTANT CELEBRITY STATUS-- AND YOU HAVE MY ASSURANCE NONE OF THIS WILL BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, EVEN THOUGH ALL THIS ATTENTION-- IN THE LONG RUN-- WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO YOUR GOALS.

WE APPRECIATE THAT. JIM AND I WILL DISCUSS THIS AND GET BACK TO YOU. SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT FUNDING FOR THE NEW CONSTRUCTION SITE?



WE CAN, IF MR. DOWNING IS COMFORTABLE MOVING ON?

GO AHEAD.

THE INSURANCE BONDS FOR THE PROJECT HAVE BEEN GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL BY MY FINANCIAL BOARD AND THE MONEY FROM A FEW ONGOING BUSINESSES WILL UNDERWRITE A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE BUDGET. THE ONLY THINGS WE'LL REQUIRE FROM YOUR END ARE...



SO?

WHAT'S YOUR THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT THEY SAID IN THERE? YOU KNOW... ABOUT THE EMAIL THREATS.

DON'T KNOW. I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S TO THINK ABOUT?! YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN SHOT ONCE!



BUT, I DIDN'T DIE. PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT DOESN'T WORK.

ARE YOU CRAZY?!!



YOU THINK BECAUSE SOME WHACK JOB DIDN'T KILL YOU THE FIRST TIME-- ANOTHER KOOK WON'T TRY HARDER THE NEXT GO ROUND?

WHICH YOU MAY BE FINE WITH... BUT THE REST OF US AREN'T QUITE AS BULLETPROOF AS YOU ARE. THE STAFF MIGHT NOT BE AS CAVALIER ABOUT IT.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...



THERE'S YOUR ADORING PUBLIC AGAIN. MY GUESS-- GIVEN WHAT WE HEARD IN THE MEETING-- IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT IF WE WENT OUT THE PRIVATE SECURITY EXIT RAMUS SAID HE TAKES.





ALRIGHT--
BUT RUNNING
AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE
THE BEST WAY TO EARN
THEIR TRUST OR BUILD
A PRODUCTIVE
CHARITY.

IT'S NOT
RUNNING. IT'S
CALLED BEING
SENSIBLE.

JUST-- TRYING
TO SORT A FEW THINGS
OUT ABOUT MY PAST AND
PUTTING A FEW THINGS TO
REST. WHICH REMINDS ME...
THAT PHOTO I GAVE YOU...
DID YOU GET VERY FAR
WITH THAT?

NOT VERY. IF
YOU'RE REFERRING
TO THAT WEDDING
PHOTO. BUT I'M STILL
WORKING ON A FEW
LEADS ABOUT
YOUR PAST.

AND I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T BRIEF YOU
IN ADVANCE ABOUT
THIS MEETING BUT YOU'VE
BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO GET
IN TOUCH WITH. WHAT
HAVE YOU BEEN DOING
WITH YOURSELF?

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT. YOU
CAN STOP DOING
WHATEVER IT IS
YOU WERE
DOING.

WHAT?
IT
DOESN'T
MATTER TO
ME ANY-
MORE.



SINCE
WHEN?



I'LL
TALK TO
YOU ABOUT
IT LATER.
YOU GO
AHEAD.

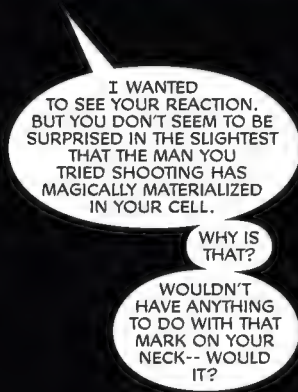
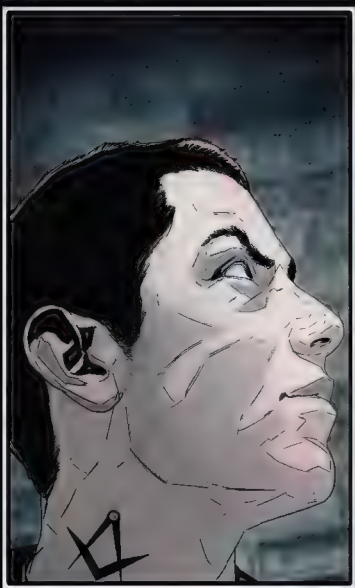
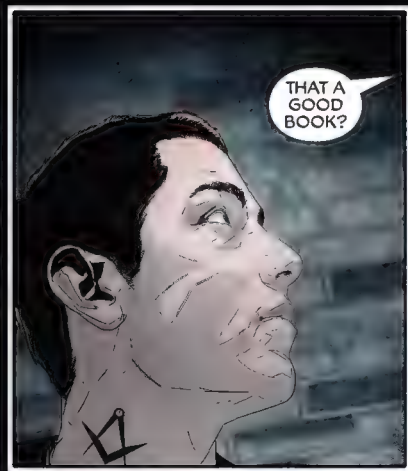


WHY?
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?



I'M CURIOUS
ABOUT SOME-
THING RAMUS SAID--
JUST WANTED TO
LOOK INTO
SOMETHING.







NOT REALLY. I HAD MY SUSPICIONS EARLIER I'VE JUST BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS. SO... WHEN DID **BLUDD** HIRE YOU?

TOOK YOU THAT LONG TO FIGURE THINGS OUT?

YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I'M GOING TO SPILL MY GUTS TO YOU?-- WISHFUL THINKING, BUDDY. BUT HERE'S WHAT I WILL TELL YOU... HIS PLAN IS WORKING OUT TO A 'T'. AND AS YOU'RE FINDING OUT, 'FAME AND FORTUNE' CAN BE A BITCH.



YEAH, I'VE NOTICED THAT. OBVIOUSLY YOUR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT DIDN'T HELP AND THE CLEVER WAY YOU'VE BUILT A WHOLE STORY ABOUT A DAD JUST WANTING TO HELP HIS LITTLE GIRL. IT'S QUITE CONVINCING. YOU EVEN HAVE THE COPS BELIEVING IT.

BECAUSE IT'S TRUE... AS FAR AS EVERYONE KNOWS.

RIGHT. **BLUDD** THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING. HE PICKS A PERFECT STOOGE-- ONE WHO ACTUALLY HAS A DISEASE RIDDEN DAUGHTER SO ALL THE FACTS CHECK OUT WITH THE AUTHORITIES. BUT THEY MISSED SOMETHING, DIDN'T THEY?

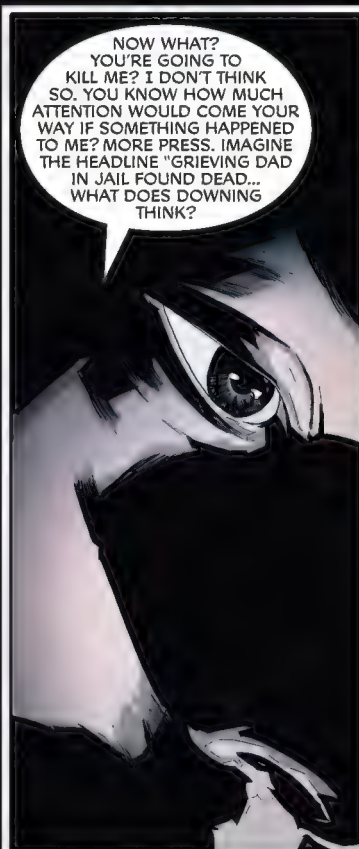
NONE OF THEM ASKED WHETHER YOU WERE MOLESTING YOUR FIFTEEN-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER. HOW MANY YEARS YOU BEEN DOING THAT? WHAT? SINCE SHE WAS SIX? SEVEN?



DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

SURE YOU DO. SEE, I PAID A VISIT TO YOUR DAUGHTER BEFORE I CAME HERE. TOLD HER I COULDN'T HELP HER UNTIL SHE CLEANSED HERSELF. SHE CRIED THE ENTIRE TIME SHE TOLD ME WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING TO HER! AND A FATHER THAT WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HIS OWN LITTLE GIRL **WOULDN'T HESITATE** EXPLOITING HER FURTHER WHEN SOMEONE LIKE **BLUDD** OR HIS VAMPIRE CREW CAME CALLING.

WHAT WAS IT HE PROMISED TO GIVE YOU BEFORE YOU WERE BITTEN? MONEY? A NEW CAR? OH... LET ME GUESS. HE OFFERED YOU ETERNAL LIFE SO THAT YOU COULD CONTINUE TO MOLEST YOUNG GIRLS FOR ETERNITY. HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY TURN DOWN SOMETHING LIKE THAT?



NOW WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME? I DON'T THINK SO. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH ATTENTION WOULD COME YOUR WAY IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME? MORE PRESS. IMAGINE THE HEADLINE "GRIEVING DAD IN JAIL FOUND DEAD... WHAT DOES DOWNING THINK?"



IT'S ALL A GAME AND YOU'RE THE STAR. **A RATINGS STAR!** THE MORE ATTENTION ON YOU, THE BETTER FOR **RAMUS**... OR **BLUDD** AS YOU LIKE TO CALL HIM. SO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO ME THEN YOU'LL JUST BE DOING HIM A FAVOR. YOU KNOW HE MAKES A LOT OF CASH OFF YOU?

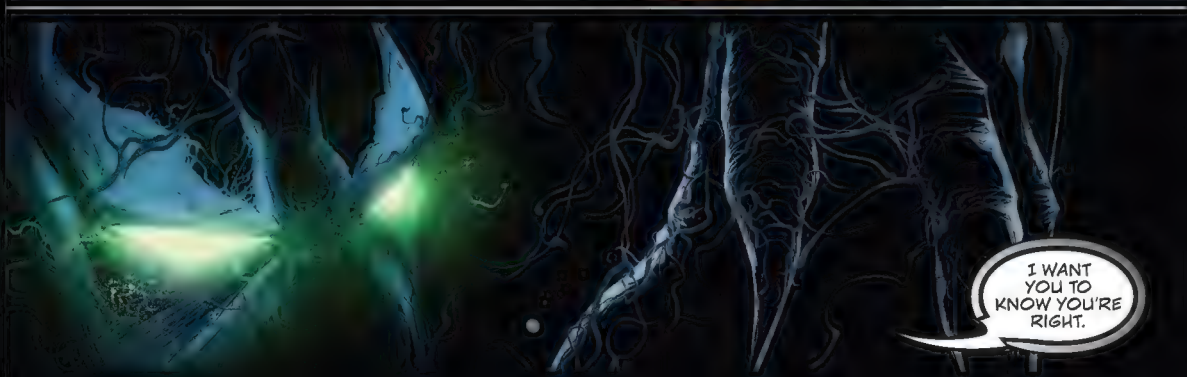
NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!



NEXT TIME YOU TALK TO ONE OF YOUR VAMPIRE FRIENDS-- TELL THEM I'VE GOT A PLAN TOO.



Moments later,





DOWNING
DOESN'T HAVE THE
COURAGE TO KILL
YOU.



I'M
NOT
DOWNING!



"AND BLUDD NEEDS TO
LEARN THAT LESSON!"



SOMEONE! GET
SECURITY DOWN TO
'C' BLOCK! I HEAR
SCREAMING!



"BECAUSE **NO ONE** IS
GOING TO CONTROL DOWNING
OTHER THAN ME!"

Somewhere in New Jersey

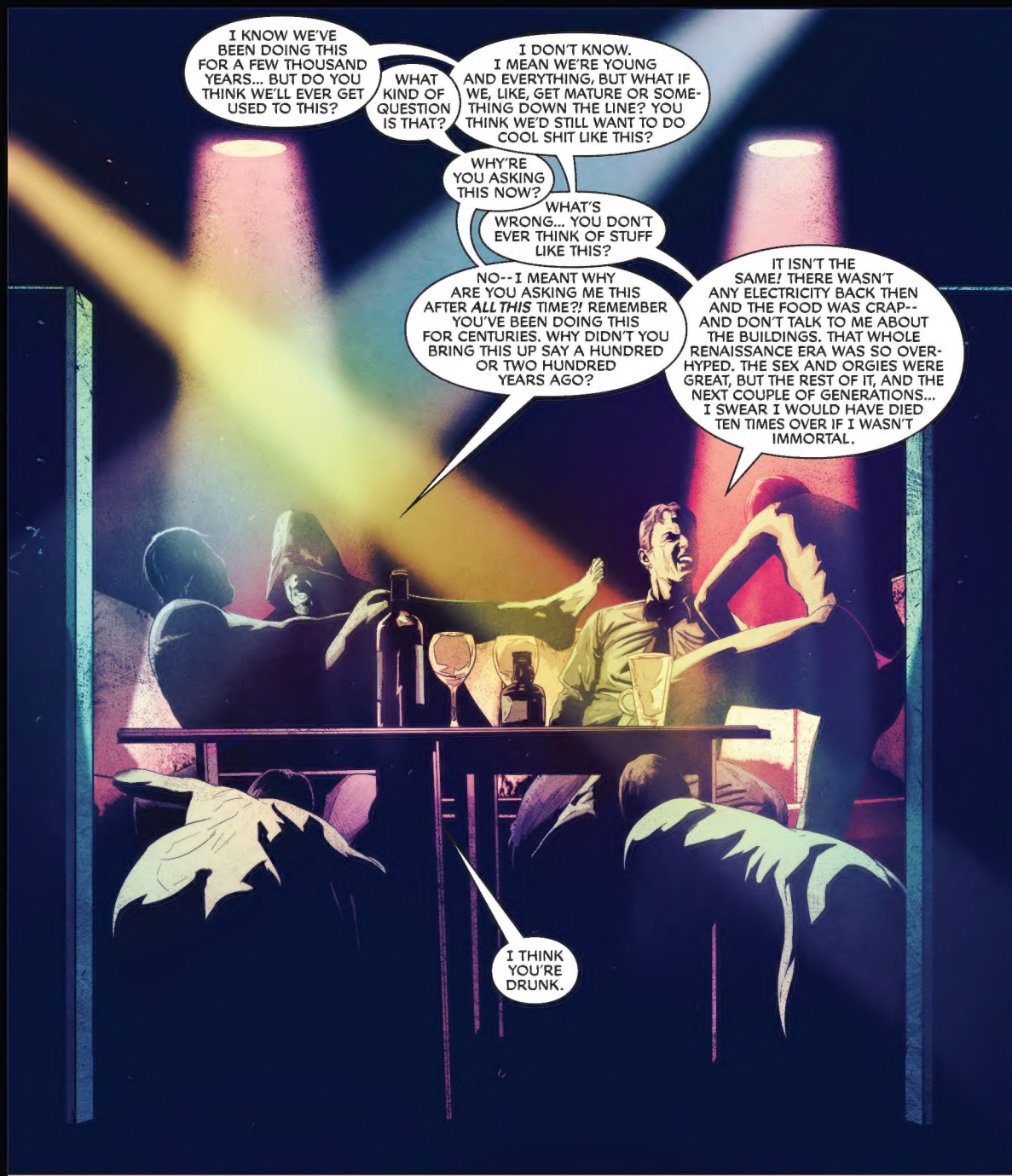
LOOK AT THIS PLACE--MAN IS IT HOPPING TONIGHT? I SWEAR THIS IS THE CRAZIEST I'VE EVER SEEN IT. AND THESE GIRLS...NOT AN UGLY ONE IN SIGHT. WHAT DO THEY DO? HAVE SECURITY REJECT ANYONE WHO ISN'T AT LEAST A NINE?

CHECK OUT THIS CHICK, SHE'S BEEN WANTING TO GET AT MY BUSINESS ALL NIGHT.

THEY ALL HAVE. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY STUD HERE.

I'M TELLING YOU I NEARLY WENT OUT OF MY MIND WHEN THE PLACE WAS SHUT DOWN FOR A FEW WEEKS.* I BET THAT DICKHEAD SPAWN DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THIS JOINT'S OPENED AGAIN.

AND THE FOOD HANGING FROM THE RAFTERS... THE SHIT IS JUST TOP NOTCH!



I KNOW WE'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A FEW THOUSAND YEARS... BUT DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER GET USED TO THIS?

WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?

I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN WE'RE YOUNG AND EVERYTHING, BUT WHAT IF WE, LIKE, GET MATURE OR SOMETHING DOWN THE LINE? YOU THINK WE'D STILL WANT TO DO COOL SHIT LIKE THIS?

WHY'RE YOU ASKING THIS NOW?

WHAT'S WRONG... YOU DON'T EVER THINK OF STUFF LIKE THIS?

NO-- I MEANT WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THIS AFTER ALL THIS TIME?! REMEMBER YOU'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR CENTURIES. WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING THIS UP SAY A HUNDRED OR TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO?

IT ISN'T THE SAME! THERE WASN'T ANY ELECTRICITY BACK THEN AND THE FOOD WAS CRAP-- AND DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT THE BUILDINGS. THAT WHOLE RENAISSANCE ERA WAS SO OVER-HYPED. THE SEX AND ORGIES WERE GREAT, BUT THE REST OF IT, AND THE NEXT COUPLE OF GENERATIONS... I SWEAR I WOULD HAVE DIED TEN TIMES OVER IF I WASN'T IMMORTAL.

I THINK YOU'RE DRUNK.



WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

And you're right, I am smashed.

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST TALK SPORTS. DID YOU READ THAT BLOG LAST MONTH ABOUT MICHAEL JORDAN BEING A DEMON? I JUST ABOUT PISSED MYSELF.



ENOUGH!

NOW
STRAIGHTEN UP...
LOOK WHO'S
COMING TO PAY
US A VISIT.

I
HATE
THAT
DUDE!

YOU HATE
EVERYONE.



HOW'S
YOUR EVENING
GOING,
GENTLEMEN?

YOU
FIND OUR
BROTHER?



THAT
DEPENDS.

I'LL TAKE
THAT AS A 'NO.' BUT
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING
TO FIND HIM AND-- SILLY US-- WE
ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU
MEANT IT. I MEAN WE'VE DONE
A BUNCH OF FAVORS FOR YOU,
SO WHY WOULD WE THINK
YOU'D WANT TO DO JUST
ONE FOR US?

I'M NOT HAVING
THIS CONVERSATION WITH
THE LADIES STILL HERE.
I'LL BE OUTSIDE.

ALL RIGHT
GIRLS-- YOU HEARD
THE MAN. GET
DRESSED AND LEAVE
US ALONE.

HEAR
WHAT I SAID?
GET OFF ME!



GODDAMNIT,
BITCH! I DON'T
ASK TWICE!





SO--
WHAT'S
UP?

YOU ALREADY
KNOW ABOUT CLOWN
AND HIS RECRUITING
EFFORTS-- FOR THE TIME
BEING HE DOESN'T
POSE A THREAT BUT HE
TOLD ME COGLIOSTRO'S
RETURNED.

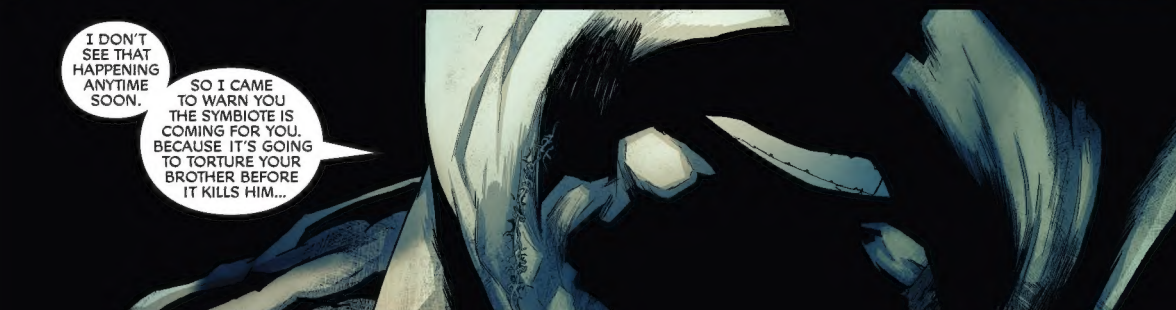


THAT MAY
COMPLICATE WHAT
WE'RE TRYING TO DO
BECAUSE IF SPAWN
DECIDES TO JOIN HIS SIDE,
COG WILL TEACH HIM TRICKS
ON HOW TO SURVIVE
ATTACKS WITHOUT
DRAINING HIS POWERS
SO QUICKLY.



THAT'S WHERE YOUR
BROTHER COMES IN. AND
WHERE OUR **BIGGEST** PROBLEM
LAYS. YOU THOUGHT SPAWN
SWALLOWED HIM INTO THE
DARKNESS. I THINK IT WAS
THE SYMBIOTE.

IT'S BEGUN
ASSERTING ITSELF--
KILLING AT AN ALARMING
RATE. AND IF THAT'S TRUE IT
MEANS THE PORTAL TO WHERE
YOUR BROTHER HAS BEEN
LOCKED IN WON'T OPEN
AGAIN UNTIL DOWNING FINDS
A WAY TO TAKE FULL
CONTROL OVER HIS
ARMOR.



I DON'T
SEE THAT
HAPPENING
ANYTIME
SOON.

SO I CAME
TO WARN YOU
THE SYMBIOTE IS
COMING FOR YOU.
BECAUSE IT'S GOING
TO TORTURE YOUR
BROTHER BEFORE
IT KILLS HIM...



AND
THAT'S WHEN
IT'LL FIND OUT
WHAT YOU DID
TO IT SO LONG
AGO.





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE